

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS

1. An Internet-based font server for access by an Internet browser to provide a said browser with
5 representations of text elements in one of a plurality of languages for browsing a web page in that language over the Internet, which server comprises an associated website for access by a said browser, a database of text element fonts of different sizes and styles, first means for
10 downloading said web page to the server, a parser program for identifying text codes of the text elements in said web page and replacing the identified text codes with respective URL (Uniform Resource Locator) addresses, thereby converting the text of said web page into said
15 URL addresses, and second means for returning the converted web page to a said browser.

2. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 1, wherein the parser program is arranged to generate
20 respective font files for the identified text codes and create said URL addresses for the respective font files to replace the identified text codes with the URL addresses.

25 3. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 2, wherein said second means is arranged to return the converted web page to a said browser by downloading successively the font files via the respective URL

addresses.

4. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 2,
wherein the server is arranged to pack the font files
5 into a single data packet for said second means to return
the converted web page to said browser.

5. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the server is arranged to match the font
10 characteristics as specified in said web page to produce
a closest match of the intended font appearance for said
second means to return the converted web page to said
browser.

15 6. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 1,
wherein the text elements are ideographic characters.

7. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 6,
wherein the server includes a database associated with a
20 standard ideographic character input method and is
arranged to match a received keystroke pattern of a
character according to the input method with the
corresponding pattern in the input method database to
identify the character and then create a unique URL
25 address for that character, by means of the parser
program, for subsequent download to a said browser.

8. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 1,

wherein the URL addresses are determined according to an encoding scheme, in which each URL address comprises the address of the website, the text code for the respective text element and a national code for the relevant font.

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9. An Internet-based font server for access by an Internet browser to provide said browser with representations of text elements in one of a plurality of languages for browsing a web page in that language over the Internet, which server comprises an associated website for access by said browser, a database of text element fonts of different sizes and styles, first means arranged to download said web page to the server, a parser program arranged to identify text codes of the text elements in said web page, generate respective font files for the identified text codes, and replace the identified text codes with URL (Uniform Resource Locator) addresses for the respective font files, thereby converting the text of said web page into said URL addresses, second means arranged to return the converted web page to said browser, and third means arranged to download the font files via the respective URL addresses to said browser upon request by said browser.

25 10. An Internet-based font server for access by an Internet browser to provide said browser with representations of text elements in one of a plurality of languages for browsing a web page in that language over

the Internet, which server comprises an associated website for access by said browser, a database of text element fonts of different sizes and styles, a parser program at said browser for identifying text codes of the text elements in said web page and replacing the identified text codes with representative URL (Uniform Resource Locator) addresses, thereby converting the text of said web page into said URL addresses, first means for generating corresponding font files at the respective URL addresses for the identified text codes, and second means for downloading the font files via the respective URL addresses to said browser upon request by said browser.

11. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 10, wherein the server is arranged to pack the font files into a single data packet for download by the second means.

12. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 10, wherein the text elements are ideographic characters.

13. The Internet-based font server as claimed in claim 10, wherein the URL addresses are determined according to an encoding scheme, in which each URL address comprises the address of the website, the text code for the respective text element and a national code for the relevant font.